



USDA-NASS

# Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

survey results summary issued twice monthly by the  
Montana Agricultural Statistics Service

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## HIGHLIGHTS:

Winter Wheat Seedings  
Late Season Crops & Hay Stocks  
Grain Stocks  
Ag Prices Received  
Pulse & Oilseed Crops Production

## Winter Wheat Seedings

Montana producers seeded 2.15 million acres of winter wheat last fall for the 2005 crop year, up 250,000 acres or 13 percent from the 2004 crop. This is the largest planted acreage since 1996 when 2.15 million acres were also seeded.

Winter wheat seeding last fall was ahead of the previous year and the five year average due to the good planting conditions. Winter wheat seeding was completed by the end of October. Winter wheat conditions at the end of December were significantly higher than a year ago. Conditions were rated 0% very poor, 2% poor, 33% fair, 49% good, and 16% excellent compared with 8% very poor, 15% poor, 43% fair, 33% good, and 1% excellent a year ago.

U.S. winter wheat planted acreage for 2005 is estimated at 41.6 million acres. This is down 4 percent from 2004

## 2004 Late Season Crop Summary

Montana producers planted 70,000 acres of **corn** for all purposes in 2004, up 2,000 acres from 2003. There were 66,000 acres harvested for all purposes in 2004, unchanged from 2003. Corn planted for grain, at 15,000 acres, was 2,000 acres lower than a year ago. The average yield was 143.0 bushels per acre, 3 bushels higher than last year. Grain production decreased 10 percent from a year ago to 2.15 million bushels due to an decrease in acres harvested. Corn for silage harvested acres, at 51,000 acres, increased 2,000 acres from last year.

**Sugar beet** producers in Montana planted 53,700 acres in 2004, up 2,000 acres from the previous year. Harvested acreage amounted to 52,100 acres, up 600 acres from 2003. Yield decreased 3.7 tons per acre from last year to average 21.7 tons per acre. Total production of 1.13 million tons, was down 14 percent from the previous year. **Fall potato** production in Montana totaled 3.55 million cwt., up 6 percent from last year. Producers harvested 10,600 acres unchanged from 2003. Potato yields increased 20.0 cwt. per acre from a year ago

to 335.0 cwt. per acre.

All **hay** harvested in Montana was up 50,000 acres from last year, to 2.5 million acres. All hay production was 4.76 million tons, up 3 percent from a year ago due to increases in other hay acreage harvested and alfalfa hay yield. **Alfalfa hay** harvested acreage was 1.40 million, down 12 percent from last season. The average yield was 2.30 tons per acre, which is 0.20 tons per acre higher than the previous year. **Other hay** harvested was 1.1 million acres, up 29 percent from the previous year. The increase was mainly due to more CRP acreage hayed. The average yield was 1.40 tons per acre, down 0.10 ton per acre from last year. Montana **hay stocks** were estimated at 4.43 million tons on December 1, up 11 percent from last year.

U.S. **corn for grain** production is estimated at 11.8 billion bushels, up 17 percent from the 10.1 billion bushels produced in 2003. The average U.S. grain yield is estimated at 160.4 bushels per acre, up 18.2 bushels from last year. Both production and yield estimates are the largest on record. The previous record for both was last year when production was estimated at 10.1 billion bushels and yield was 142.2 bushels per acre.

**Sugar beet** production in the U.S. is estimated at 29.9 million tons, 3 percent below last year's production. Growers in the 12 sugarbeet-producing States harvested 1.31 million acres, 3 percent below last year's 1.35 million acres. Yield is estimated at 22.9 tons per acre, 0.1 ton above 2003. U.S. **Fall potato** production for 2004 is estimated at 410 million cwt, virtually unchanged from last year for comparable States. Area harvested, at 1.02 million acres, is 6 percent below last year. The average yield is estimated at 401 cwt per acre, 25 cwt per acre above last year. This is a record high yield, 9 cwt per acre above the previous record set in 2000.

U.S. **all hay** production for 2004 is estimated at 158 million tons, up fractionally from the 2003 total. Area harvested, at 61.9 million acres, is down 2 percent from 2003. The average yield, at 2.55 tons per acre, is up 0.06 ton from the previous year. **Alfalfa hay** production in 2004 totaled 75.4 million tons, down 1 percent from last year. Harvested area, at 21.7 million acres, is 8 percent below the previous year. Yields averaged 3.47 tons per acre, up 0.23 ton from the 2003 yield. **Other hay** production in 2004 totaled 82.4 million tons, up 1 percent from a year ago. Area for harvest, at 40.2 million acres, is 1 percent above last

year. The average yield is estimated at a record high 2.05 tons per acre, up 0.01 ton from last year.

## 2004 Oilseeds Summary

Montana's **flaxseed** production for 2004 was 342,000 bushels, 55 percent higher than a year ago. Planted and harvested acres were 20,000 and 19,000, respectively, compared to 2003, when growers planted and harvested 17,000 acres. The average yield for 2004 was 18.0 bushels per acre, up 5 bushels per acre from the previous year, which is record yield for Montana.

Production of **mustard seed** during 2004 was 7.98 million pounds compared with 12.3 million in 2003. Planted acres of mustard was 11,500 acres with 11,400 acres harvested. Last year, Montana producers planted 20,500 acres of mustard seed and harvested 20,200 acres. Mustard seed yields averaged 700 pounds per acre this year, which is 90 pounds per acre more than a year ago.

Montana **canola** growers planted 15,000 acres in 2004, 13,000 acres fewer than 2003. Harvested acreage was 15,000 acre, down 12,000 acres from last year. The 2004 canola yield was 1,590 pounds per acre, up 650 pounds per acre from a year ago. Montana producers planted and harvested 1,500 acres of **rapeseed** in 2004. Yield was 1,610 pounds per acre for a total production of 2.42 million bushels.

Growers produced 21.08 million pounds of **safflower**, down 35 percent from last year. Safflower planted acres in Montana totaled 33,500, with 31,000 acres harvested. Yield was 680 pounds per acre, down 90 pounds per acre from last year. Last year there were 42,500 acres planted and 42,000 acres harvested.

U.S. production of **flaxseed** in 2004 totaled 10.5 million bushels, slightly lower than a year ago. Yield was 20.3 bushels, 2.4 bushels or 13 percent higher than 2003. Planted area for the 2004 crop was 523,000 acres, down 12 percent from 2003. Harvested area, at 516,000 acres, is 12 percent below last year.

Planted area for **safflower** in the U.S. was at 175,000 acres, a decrease of 21 percent from 2003. Safflower harvested area is 159,000 acres, down 25 percent from the previous year. The yield for safflower, at 1,105 pounds per acre, decreased 185 pounds per acre from 2003. Total production for 2004 was 175.77 million pounds, 36 percent lower than 2003. (Continued on back page)

Stocks of **all wheat** in Montana on December 1, 2004 were 139.6 million bushels, up 16 percent from December 1, 2003. All wheat stocks stored on the farm amounted to 116.0 million bushels, up 23 percent from a year ago. All wheat stored off-farm amounted 23.6 million bushels, down 10 percent from the previous year. All wheat disappearance for the September - November 2004 quarter was up 43 percent from the same quarter last year to 46.1 million bushels, compared with 32.2 million a year ago.

**Oats** stocks in all positions were estimated at 2.03 million bushels, up 12 percent from last year. On-farm oat stocks were 1.9 million bushels, up 12 percent from 1.7 million stored a year ago. Oats stored off-farm were up 18 percent from last year to 130,000 bushels.

The on-farm **storage capacity** of all storage facilities in Montana, normally used for storing grain, was estimated to be 330 million bushels, unchanged from a year ago. There were 158 off-farm storage facilities in Montana on December 1, 2004. The storage capacity of off farm facilities

**U.S. all wheat** stored in all positions on December 1, 2004 totaled 1.43 billion bushels, down 6 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 531 million bushels, up 8 percent from last December. Off-farm stocks, at 900 million bushels, are down 13 percent from a year ago. The September - November 2004 indicated disappearance is 508 million bushels, down 2 percent from the same period a year earlier.

U.S. **barley** stocks in all positions on December 1, 2004 totaled 246 million bushels, up 24 percent from December 1, 2003. On-farm stocks are estimated at 131 million bushels, 34 percent above a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 115 million bushels, are 15 percent above December 2003. The September - November 2004 indicated disappearance is 43.9 million bushels, fractionally above the same period a year earlier.

**Oats** stored in the U.S. in all positions on December 1, 2004 totaled 105 million bushels, 12 percent below the stocks on December 1, 2003. Of the total stocks on

hand, 60.4 million bushels are stored on farms, down 6 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks totaled 44.6 million bushels, down 19 percent from a year earlier. Indicated disappearance during September - November 2004 totaled 10.8 million bushels, down 13 percent from the same period a year ago.

U.S. **corn** stocks in all positions on December 1, 2004 totaled 9.45 billion bushels, up 19 percent from December 1, 2003. This is the highest December 1 stocks level since 1987. Of the total stocks, 6.14 billion bushels are stored on farms, up 16 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 3.30 billion bushels, are up 24 percent from a year ago. The September - November 2004 indicated disappearance is 3.32 billion bushels, compared with 3.22 billion bushels during the same period last year.

U.S. capacity of off-farm commercial grain storage totaled 8.50 billion bushels in the United States on December 1, 2004, down fractionally from December 1, 2003. Off-farm grain storage capacity includes all elevators, warehouses, terminals, merchant mills, other storage, and oilseed crushers which store whole grains, soybeans, canola, flaxseed, mustard seed, safflower, sunflower, rapeseed, Austrian winter peas, dry edible peas, lentils, and chickpeas/garbanzo beans.

Off-farm storage facilities totaled 9,602 on December 1, 2004, down 2 percent from December 1, 2003. States with the largest number of facilities are Illinois with 960; Iowa, 930; Kansas, 793; Minnesota, 592; and Nebraska with 500.

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Dec. 1, 2003	Sept. 1, 2004	Dec. 1, 2004	'04/'03	Dec.. 1, 2003	Sept. 1, 2004	Dec 1, 2004
	Thousand Bushels			Percent	Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	94,000	166,000	116,000	123%	491,925	790,600	531,020
Off Farms 1/	26,310	19,780	23,640	90%	1,028,359	1,147,807	899,718
TOTAL	120,310	185,780	139,640	116%	1,520,284	1,938,407	1,430,738
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	41,400	65,600	51,800
Off Farms 1/, 4/	--	--	--	--	25,569	25,508	26,905
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	66,969	91,108	78,705
BARLEY							
On Farms	18,000	42,000	29,000	161%	97,200	175,300	130,700
Off Farms 1/	8,090	7,290	9,340	115%	100,679	114,777	115,476
TOTAL	26,090	49,290	38,340	147%	197,879	290,077	246,176
OATS							
On Farms	1,700	2,500	1,900	112%	64,400	74,300	60,400
Off Farms 1/	110	50	130	118%	54,900	41,458	44,563
TOTAL	1,810	2,550	2,030	112%	119,300	115,758	104,963
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	484,900	1,540,000	438,000
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	601,773	1,430,140	519,672
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	1,086,673	2,970,140	957,672

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds

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## Agricultural Prices Received

November full month crop prices were higher compared with October 2004. Montana's winter wheat average price was \$3.48 per bushel, up \$0.09 from the previous month; spring wheat moved up \$0.09 to \$3.86 per bushel; but durum wheat prices dropped \$0.18 to \$3.85 per bushel. Feed barley prices increased \$0.12 from the previous month to \$1.69 per bushel.

The mid-December price for alfalfa hay was up \$4.00 from November to \$82.00 per ton and all other hay jumped \$5.00 to \$74.00 per ton. The mid-December grain prices were lower than the previous month with winter wheat price averaging \$3.40 per bushel, spring wheat was \$3.75 per bushel, durum wheat was \$3.82 per bushel, and feed barley was \$1.65 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of November were mostly lower than the previous month. Steer and heifer prices fell \$5.00 to \$110.00 per cwt, cows

dropped \$1.90 to \$49.30. The average price for calves decreased \$1.00 to \$126.00 per cwt. Sheep prices rose \$4.60 to \$45.30 per cwt and lamb prices jumped \$7.00 to \$116.00 per cwt. Milk prices rose \$0.70 per cwt from last month to \$15.60 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-December averaged \$112.00 per cwt.; cows averaged \$50.50 per cwt.; calves averaged \$128.00 per cwt.; and milk prices averaged \$15.90 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for November and changes from October were as follows: winter wheat was \$3.39, up \$0.05, spring wheat was \$3.56, up \$0.05; durum wheat was \$3.77, down \$0.12; the all barley price was \$2.51, up \$0.22, and steer and heifer prices were \$90.20, down \$0.80 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-December winter wheat price was \$3.29 per bushel, spring wheat was \$3.45 per bushel, durum wheat was \$3.64 per bushel, all wheat was \$3.38 per bushel, malt barley was \$2.82 per bushel, feed barley was \$1.61 per bushel, and all

barley was \$2.46. Steer and heifer prices were \$91.90 per cwt, cow prices were \$48.70, calves were \$121.00 per cwt., all hog prices were \$54.50 per cwt, and all egg prices were \$0.654 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in December, at 112, based on 1990-92=100, is 3 points below the November Index. The Crop Index is down 8 points (7.1 percent) from November while the Livestock Index increased 1 point (0.8 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for cattle, dairy, eggs, and cauliflower. Lower prices were received for tomatoes, oranges, corn, and cotton. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of dairy, tobacco, and wheat offset decreased marketings of cattle, grapes, and soybeans. The preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 2 points (1.8 percent) from December 2003.

## United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	November 2003	December 2003	November 2004	December 2004
Prices Received	116	114	115	112
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	129	129	134	134
Ratio 2/	90	88	86	84

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

## Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana		U.S.		Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Nov. 2003	Oct. 2004	Nov. 2004	Nov. 2004	Oct. 2004	Nov. 2003	Dec. 15, 2004	Dec. 15, 2004
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.65	3.39	3.48	3.39	+0.09	-0.17	3.40	3.29
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3.94	4.03	3.85	3.77	-0.18	-0.09	3.82	3.64
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.83	3.77	3.86	3.56	+0.09	+0.03	3.75	3.45
All Wheat	Bu.	3.77	3.67	3.72	3.46	+0.05	-0.05	3.63	3.38
Barley, All	Bu.	2.57	2.62	2.92	2.51	+0.30	+0.35	2.70	2.46
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.16	1.57	1.69	1.78	+0.12	-0.47	1.65	1.61
Malt Barley	Bu.	2.97	2.99	N/A	2.95	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.82
Oats	Bu.	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.49	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.42
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	76.00	78.00	78.00	94.00	0	+2.00	82.00	92.40
All Other Hay	Ton	69.00	70.00	69.00	67.80	-1.00	0	74.00	67.10
All Hay Baled	Ton	74.00	75.0	76.00	86.20	+1.00	+2.00	81.00	84.30
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	98.50	115.00	110.00	90.20	-5.00	+11.50	112.00	91.90
Cows	Cwt	49.80	51.20	49.30	48.90	-1.90	-0.50	50.50	48.70
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	88.80	104.00	88.10	85.10	-15.90	-0.70	90.50	86.80
Calves	Cwt	110.00	127.00	126.00	124.00	-1.00	+16.00	128.00	121.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	42.70	40.70	45.30	41.50	+4.60	+2.60	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	116.00	109.00	116.00	101.00	+7.00	0	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	14.70	14.90	15.60	16.10	+0.70	0.90	15.90	16.50

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued.

## 2004 Oilseed Summary (continued)

Planted area of **mustard seed**, at 73,000 acres, is down 34 percent from 2003 and harvested area, at 68,700 acres, is down 36 percent from last year. Mustard seed yields averaged 819 pounds per acre, 96 pounds above last year. Total production for 2004 was 56.29 million pounds, 27 percent lower than 2003.

U.S. **canola** production in 2004 is 1.34 billion pounds, down 11 percent from 2003. The canola yield, at 1,618 pounds, is up 202 pounds from last year. Area planted to canola is estimated at 865,000 acres, 20 percent below last year's acreage. Harvested area, at 828,000 acres, is down 22 percent from 2003.

## 2004 Pulse Crops Summary

Montana's **dry bean** growers produced 285,000 cwt. in 2004, up 22 percent from last year. Producers planted 13,000 acres of beans this year, unchanged from last year. Growers harvested 12,700 acres, which yielded 2,240 lbs. per acre, compared with last year's 12,800 acres harvested and the average yield of 1,820 lbs. per acre. **Pinto bean** production in 2004 was 252,000 cwt., which is 21 percent more than last year. Planted acreage was 10,800, up 1,100 acres from last year. Harvested acreage, at 10,600 acres, is 9 percent above the previous year. The yield was 2,380 lbs. per acre, which is 230 pounds more than last year. **Garbanzo beans** production, at 33,000 cwt., is 50

percent higher than last year due to higher yields. Planted acreage was 2,200, down from 3,200 acres last year. Harvested area was 2,100 acres, down 900 acres from last year. The yield was 1,570 pounds per acre, up from last year's 730 pounds per acre. **Small garbanzo beans** producers planted 900 acres, of which 800 were harvested with a yield of 1,750 lbs. per acre. Total production was 14,000 cwt. for 2004. **Large garbanzo beans** producers planted 1,300 acres and harvested 1,300 acres with a yield of 1,460 lbs. per acre. Total production of large garbanzo beans was 19,000 cwt.

**Dry edible pea** production for 2004 in Montana was 1,266,000 cwt., almost three times higher than a year ago. Planted and harvested acreages were 68,000 and 63,000, respectively. Last year growers planted 33,000 acres and harvested 31,000. Average yield for 2004 was 20.0 cwt. per acre, compared with 14.5 cwt. last year. **Austrian winter pea** production in 2004 was 72,000 cwt., up 29 percent from last year. Planted acreage was 12,000 acres, up 2,500 acres from 2003. Harvested acreage, at 8,000, was 1,000 acres higher than the previous year. The yield was 9.0 cwt. per acre in 2004, compared with 8.0 cwt. a year ago.

Montana's 2004 **lentils** production was 1,008,000 cwt., up from 273,000 cwt. a year ago. This is the largest production since estimates of lentil production began in 1998. Planted area was 78,000 acres and

harvested acres were 72,000 acres. Last year, the planted and harvested acres were 30,000 and 26,000, respectively. The average yield was 14.0 cwt. per acre, up 3.5 cwt per acre from a year ago.

U.S. **dry edible bean** production was 17.8 million cwt. for 2004, 21 percent below last year. Harvested acreage was 1.22 million acres, down 9 percent from 2003. The average U.S. yield was 1,460 pounds per acre, 210 pounds below a year ago.

Production of **dry edible peas** in Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, and Washington was 11.4 million cwt. for 2004, 6.2 million cwt. above 2003. Area harvested, at 507,800 acres, was 55 percent above last year. Average yield, at 2,249 pounds per acre, was 665 pounds above 2003. Production of **Austrian winter peas** in Idaho, Montana, and Oregon for the 2004 season was 264,000 cwt., 52 percent above 2003. Area harvested, at 21,500 acres, was 38 percent above 2003. The average yield of 1,228 pounds per acre increased 113 pounds from 2003.

Production of **lentils** in Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, and Washington was 4.18 million cwt. for 2004, up 71 percent from 2003. Planted area, at 345,000 acres, was 40 percent above the previous season. Harvested area, at 329,000 acres, was 39 percent above last year. Average yield per acre, at 1,271 pounds, was 241 pounds above last year.

### COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Wheat Supply and Demand	Cattle on Feed
Annual Crop Production	Red Meat Production
Potato Stocks	
Quarterly Milk Production	

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